## NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NEWS RELEASE

Office of the Superintendent 700 East Fifth Street Carson City, Nevada 89701-5096 775/687-9200; FAX 775/687-9101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact
Charlotte Curtis
GEAR UP State Coordinator
Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street
Carson City, NV 89701
ccurtis@doe.nv.gov
775-687-9243
Fax 775-687-9250

## Nevada State GEAR UP Celebrates First Annual National GEAR UP Day

September 22, 2009 – The Nevada State GEAR UP program announced today its celebration of the First Annual National GEAR UP Day. This day commemorates ten years of success for the transformative Gaining Early Awareness and Education for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), a college access program. Since its inception in 1999, GEAR UP has improved educational outcomes for millions of low-income students and first generation college going students across the United States.

The Nevada State GEAR UP program is celebrating this historic event with a variety of activities. A formal press conference will be held in Reno, Nevada on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at the Wooster High School. The press conference will recognize GEAR UP students currently enrolled in the UNR Dean's Future Scholars Program, Hug High School and Wooster High School. Dr. Heath Morrison, Superintendent Washoe County School District, and Nevada Assemblywoman Debbie Smith will be kicking off the event.

GEAR UP encourages business partnerships in this important endeavor. AT&T and Wells Fargo will be present to celebrate this milestone occasion. AT&T and Wells Fargo have provided financial support, training and mentoring support to assist GEAR UP students and families in their college aspirations.

In Las Vegas, eighteen high schools will be celebrating the tenth anniversary with a proclamation read at each high school. A GEAR UP banner sponsored by Wells Fargo will also presented at each high school site. The schools include Advanced Technologies Academy, Basic, Canyon Springs, Chaparral, Clark, Del Sol, Desert Pines, East Career Technical Academy, Eldorado, Las Vegas, Las Vegas Academy, Legacy, Mojave, Northwest Career Technical Academy, Rancho, Southeast Career Technical Academy, Southwest Career Technical Academy, Sunrise Mountain and Valley.

There are rural schools throughout Nevada that will be receiving the banners and hosting community celebrations such as Gabbs School, September 18, 2009 and McDermitt School, September 23, 2009.

Other GEAR UP schools include Beatty, Mineral County, Owyhee, Pahrump Valley, Pershing County, Tonopah and Yerington High Schools.

The Nevada State GEAR UP program has served over 8,000 students for the past eight years. One thousand one hundred students (1,100) graduated from the first program in 2007, and approximately 50% of those students have attended college in Nevada at Nevada System of Higher Education colleges and universities. There are currently 5,100 GEAR UP students in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade in selected high schools across the state of Nevada. Students in GEAR UP receive a variety of college preparatory experiences including educational enrichment, tutoring, mentoring, field trips to colleges/universities, financial aid training, college entrance assessments, summer college camp and summer school. When they graduate from high school they will be eligible to apply for the GEAR UP scholarship/grant that may be used at Nevada institutions of higher education.

National GEAR UP Day is a time to celebrate these students in the local community. Superintendent of Public Instruction Keith Rheault said, "Our low income students deserve access to the finest college preparatory programs coupled with financial assistance to attend postsecondary schools. GEAR UP affords our students, families and schools the opportunity to achieve their goals."

For more information about the Nevada State GEAR UP Program please contact Charlotte Curtis at 775-687-9243 or <a href="mailto:ccurtis@doe.nv.gov">ccurtis@doe.nv.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:www.doe.nv.gov/gearup">www.doe.nv.gov/gearup</a>. To learn more about the national GEAR UP program, please contact the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships at 202-530-1135 or <a href="https://www.edpartnerships.org">www.edpartnerships.org</a>.

###